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CONCORD, N.H.

Honorable Harold D. Cheever  
Justice, Wilton Municipal Court  
Wilton, New Hampshire

Dear Judge Cheever:

You have inquired whether a Justice of the Municipal Court in New Hampshire has the authority to commit a juvenile to the Industrial School and then suspend the commitment on good behavior subject to conditions ordered by the Court.

Your question is a little confusing inasmuch as it is not entirely clear to me whether by "commitment" you are in fact intending to say "sentence".

This matter is governed by RSA 621:11-14. A Justice of the Municipal Court shall sentence minors under the age of eighteen to the Industrial School upon conviction of an offense punishable otherwise than by imprisonment for life, but the same Judge is specifically authorized by that section to suspend such a sentence if he sees fit.

Once a minor is committed to the Industrial School by sentence of the Court, he is then removed from any further judicial control and becomes subject to the control of the trustees of the Industrial School until he attains the age of twenty-one. RSA 621:14.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Wyman  
Attorney General

W/d